

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 are rejected.

Applicant's claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention. This clarification is supported by the description in applicant's specification, for example, page 9, line 26 through page 10, line 15.

Applicant's claimed invention recites that the luminance examining unit determines whether the amount of light is appropriate for suppressing disturbances in an image.

This is in contrast to the prior art for example, Sugimoto determines the exposure period of the CCD imager 32 for the exposure adjustment on the basis of the luminance evaluation value  $V_y$ .

Claims 1 and 4 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Sugimoto (6,441,856).

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Sugimoto in view of Yahav and claim 5 as being unpatentable over Sugimoto in view of Yokonuma.

Sugimoto determines the exposure period of the CCD imager 32 for the exposure adjustment on the basis of the luminance evaluation value  $V_y$ .

Contrasting Applicant's claimed invention recites a luminance examining unit counts a sum total of luminance value of all pixels in a field of the image represented by said digitized image signal and examines whether or not said sum total of luminance value is greater than a predetermined threshold value.

According to Sugimoto (col. 7 lines 52-67) microcomputer 32 controls a light emission of the flash lamp 38 and switching of switches SW1 and SW2 on the basis of a shutter release instruction from a shutter release button 36 and the luminance evaluation value  $V_y$ .

However it is respectfully submitted that Sugimoto does not teach the features of applicant's luminance examining unit nor do the weighting tables 28, 30 of Sugimoto help to suppress disturbances in the image as described in Sugimoto's description in col. 7, lines 23-29.

The microcomputer 32 of Sugimoto determines the exposure period of the CCD imager 32 for the exposure adjustment on the basis of the luminance evaluation value  $V_y$  applied to the calculator.

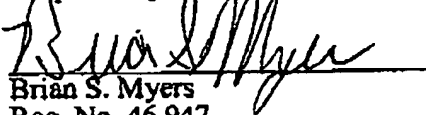
In contrast applicant's luminance control unit counts and examines luminance values and controls the camera and the illumination unit so that the amount of light becomes appropriate for suppressing disturbances in the image when the luminance examining unit determines that the amount of light detected by the camera and stored in the image-pickup plane is not appropriate for suppressing disturbances in that image.

Because of applicant's claimed feature it can be determined whether or not the amount of the light detected by the high-sensitivity camera and stored in the image-pickup plane of the high-sensitivity camera is appropriate.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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